ACTIVIST NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF EQUALITY COLORADO

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EQUALITY COLORADO

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VIDEO, REV. FORBES HIGHLIGHT VOICES OF FAITH CONFERENCE

The second annual *Claiming the Spirit: Uniting Faith, Rights and Sexuality* conference begins on July 18, and there's still time to sign up. Registration is $75 before July 15 and $100 thereafter. The conference will be at Montview Blvd. Presbyterian Church in Denver. Two special conference events, with a suggested donation of $5, are highly recommended:

• On Friday, July 19 at 7:30 p.m. Rev. Dr. James Forbes of Riverside Baptist Church in New York City will be preaching. Dr. Forbes is widely respected as one of the foremost preachers in the country, and is the first African American to serve as Senior Minister of one of the largest multicultural congregations in the country.

• Saturday, July 20 at 9:30 a.m. will be the premiere of *All God's Children*, a compelling video produced by Dee Mosbacher, Ph.D. and Sylvia Rhue, Ph.D., which explores the effect of homophobia on African Americans, particularly African-American churchgoers. In the video, participants share their compelling life stories and discuss the black civil rights movement in the context of the fight against anti-gay intolerance.

Bolder Boulder

The first domestic partnership registry in Colorado, indeed the entire Rocky Mountain region, opened in Boulder on Monday, July 1, 1996. The registry is open to both residents and nonresidents of Boulder. While the registry carries no formal legal weight, it can be an important documentation of a gay or lesbian or unmarried heterosexual couple's relationship, serving for example, to supplement a power of attorney when a person is trying to gain the status of a family member for hospital visitation rights. Ceremonies are provided with appointment.

ACTION!

▸ Call 303-441-3011, then go to the Office of the City Clerk at Boulder's Municipal Building (City Hall) at the southwest corner of Broadway and Canyon. The registration fee is $25.

New DOMA strategy

The national Freedom to Marry Coalition has come up with a new strategy for defeating the so-called Defense of Marriage Act. Instead of simply opposing DOMA, they've decided to try to attach the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) to the bill in the Senate. It is then up to all of us to convince our Senators to support the ENDA amendment and to oppose DOMA.

ACTION!

▸ Please send the enclosed postcard to Sen. Campbell. *If your organization can use more postcards, please contact Equality Colorado. If you would like a bunch more, contact the Human Rights Campaign at (202)628-4160.*

The new Anti-Violence Project number

(303) 852-5094

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UPDATE

Idaho's Decline to Sign campaign declared victory on July 1 in its effort to keep the Idaho Citizens Alliance anti-gay initaitive off the fall general election ballot. Thanks in good part to *Evans v. Romer*, the ICA decided that its "Family and Child Protection Act" was doomed. The ICA will seek to introduce at least part of the Act into the legislature in 1997... **Cincinnati:** In addition, the US Supreme Court ruled that the lower court decision which upheld Cincinnati's anti-gay Issue 3 must be reviewed and the decision must be in accordance with the Supreme Court's Amendment 2 decision... **Iceland's** Parliament - the Althingi - has passed a law recognizing the cohabitation of people of the same gender, calling it a "Registered Partnership"... **Federally,** the Hate Crimes Statistics Act was finally reauthorized.

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PEAC I

"Value ALL Families," the first project of Equality Colorado's Public Education and Action Committee, was a success. We sponsored the photo exhibit "Love Makes a Family," got bumper stickers and buttons made up, and got some coverage in the queer press. In addition, we put together an excellent resource packet for gay, lesbian, and bisexual families in Colorado. The packet includes research on parenting, adoption, child custody, domestic violence, and the freedom to marry.

ACTION! Fill out the enclosed order form and return it to us to receive copies of the packet, bumper stickers, and buttons.

PEAC II

Our next project will focus on civil rights and civic responsibilities, and will culminate around the November elections. For those interested, we will be meeting on Wednesday, July 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the Equality Colorado office. Call (303) 839-5540.

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Volunteer *at Night*

For those of you who wish you could come in and volunteer with Equality Colorado, but don't have time during the day, we are happy to announce the reinstitution of Volunteer Night @ EC. **TUESDAYS, 5-9 p.m.!**

It's <u>one</u> way to get their kids to stop making them watch *Pocahontas* again

The Southern Baptist Convention threatened a boycott of Walt Disney Co., including its theme parks, movies, and products, unless the company changes its policies regarding gays, lesbians, and bisexuals. Topping their list of objections is Disney's policy extending health benefits to the live-in partners of gay employees, as well as independently sponsored "gay days" at Disney parks.

"We question any group that demands that we deprive people of health benefits and we know of no tourist destination in the world that denies admission to people as the Baptists are insisting we do."

No date has been set for the boycott, which the Southern Baptists said will take effect only if Disney ignores their demands for changes.

ACTION! To support Disney in standing firm, write to: Michael Eisner, c/o The Walt Disney Company 500 S. Buena Vista St.; Burbank, CA 91521-1010. To call and leave a recorded message of support, the number is: (818) 560-2413

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Progressive Voices United

The Colorado Progressive Coalition, a "statewide, cross-issue, multi-racial organization founded to build a strong progressive community in Colorado," and to fight the right, is holding its first annual conference, "Building a People's Movement," in conjunction with the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Triennial Congress in Greeley. The CPC conference will be Saturday, July 27, 1996 at the University of Northern Colorado. Among the workshop topics are media training, the Parental Rights Amendment, and grassroots organizing. Equality Colorado endorses CPC.

ACTION! To register for the CPC conference, call (303) 866-0908 before July 12. CPC is especially looking for attendees from outside the Metro area.

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Upcoming Events

Golf Tournament -- Mark your calenders for **August 2nd** when Equality will host its Second Annual *Golfing for Justice* Tournament. It will be in Broomfield at the Eagle Golf Club starting at 1 p.m. The cost is $75 per person, including 18 holes of golf, a cart, prizes, and a picnic. $15 per person for picnic only.

ACTION! Get a 4some together and call (303) 839-5540 by July 18.

Try this website: GLAAD (Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) at http://ccnet4.com/gaytrek/glaad.html
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